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MAY 15, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: MORNING NEWS SUMMARY

THE WASHINGTON POST

THE POST COVERS, FROM NEWS DISPATCHES, THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE ISRAELI SCHOOL AND OTHER TERRORIST ACTIONS DURING THE NIGHT ON PAGE A-1.

JIM HOAGLAND REPORTS THAT THE KUWAITI PARLIAMENT'S VOTE TO TAKE OVER 60 PERCENT OF THE AMERICAN AND BRITISH-OWNED KUWAITI OIL COMPANY IS CERTAIN TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON OTHER ARAB STATES TO GO AFTER LARGER SHARES OF WESTERN-OWNED OIL FIRMS. THIS ACTION WILL PROBABLY LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN THE WHOLESALE PRICE OF PETROLEUM. (A-1)

EVANS AND NOVAK WRITE THAT WHILE OPERATING UNDER INTENSE, SECRET, WHITE HOUSE PRESSURE, THE PENTAGON IS NOW MOVING INTO A NEW STRATEGIC WEAPONS SYSTEM THAT MAY PROVE TO BE A LEVER AGAINST MOSCOW'S DRIVE TO MIRV ITS ENTIRE LONG-RANGE MISSILE FORCE. THIS IS CALLED THE "STAND-OFF OPTION." THE STAND-OFF OPTION IS NEEDED TO ADD TO THE U.S. BARGAINING POWER BEFORE THE SOVIETS WILL AGREE TO A MEANINGFUL MIRV LIMITATION. UNDER THE PLAN, A FLEET OF U.S. BOMBERS OR WIDE-BODIED COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT ARMED WITH LONG-RANGE MISSILES WOULD BE CAPABLE OF CIRCL-

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ING THE SOVIET UNION AT A DISTANCE OF 1,500 TO 3,000 MILES. (A-19)

JOHN GOSHKO REPORTS FROM BONN THAT SCHMIDT'S CABINET WILL CONTAIN ONLY FIVE NEW PEOPLE AND WILL CONSIST OF THE SAME BREAKDOWN BETWEEN THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND FREE DEMOCRATS AS DID BRANDT'S CABINET. THE MEMBERS ARE DEDICATED TO THE MAIN LINES OF THE LEFT-LIBERAL POLICIES ESTABLISHED BY BRANDT AND SCHEEL, ALTHOUGH THE NEW GOVERNMENT IS EXPECTED TO BE A SHADE MORE CONSERVATIVE. (A-21)

MARILYN BERGER WRITES THAT A SENIOR OFFICIAL IN YOUR PARTY SAID THAT YOUR EFFORT IS IN A HOLDING PATTERN, ALTHOUGH SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN REGISTERED. IT IS CLEAR THAT ONE OR BOTH SIDES WILL HAVE TO GIVE IF AN ACCORD IS TO BE REACHED. YOU SHOULD KNOW BY TOMORROW IF AN AGREEMENT IS POSSIBLE. (A-26)

ON PAGE A-27, MS. BERGER DESCRIBES HER VISIT TO THE GOLAN HEIGHTS.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BERNARD GWERTZMAN SAYS YOU WANT AN ADDITIONAL 24 TO 36 HOURS TO TRY TO ACHIEVE A COMPROMISE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. PROSPECTS ARE DESCRIBED AS SLIGHTLY LESS PROMISING THAN A FEW DAYS AGO. NEWSMEN HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT EXPECTED TO BE OVER EVEN IF FULL AGREEMENT IS NOT REACHED ON THIS TRIP. (A-1)

FLORA LEWIS ANALYZES THE SPATE OF LEADERSHIP CHANGES IN WESTERN EUROPE. SHE SEES SEVERAL PARALLELS: POST WORLD WAR II LEADERS ARE ON THE WAY OUT EVERYWHERE, A LONG PERIOD WITHOUT A MAJOR CRISIS HAS DEMONSTRATED AN INABILITY TO DEAL WITH THE LESSENERD CHALLENGE, AND LEADERS EVERYWHERE HAVE LOST CREDIBILITY AND AUTHORITY. EUROPEAN UNITY HAS SUFFERED, AND THE CHOICE BETWEEN EUROPEAN UNITY AND THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE POSES SERIOUS POTENTIAL DANGERS IF THE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES DON'T PULL THEMSELVES TOGETHER. (A-2)

JUAN DE ONIS REPORTS SADAT'S URGING OF ASAD TO GET THE BEST TERMS HE CAN AND LEAVE DISCUSSIONS ON WITHDRAWAL BY ISRAEL FROM OCCUPIED LANDS TO THE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE. SADAT ALSO REPORTEDLY SUPPORTS AN ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE AFTER DIS-ENGAGEMENT TO FORM A COMMON STRATEGY FOR THE GENEVA TALKS. THE MOVES ARE SEEN IN SUPPORT OF YOUR EFFORTS. (A-11)

CHRISTOPHER WREN SEES PREMIER JALLOUD'S VISIT TO MOSCOW AS A LIBYAN ATTEMPT TO REPLACE EGYPT AS A CONSPICUOUS ALLY OF THE SOVIET UNION IN THE ARAB WORLD. (A-12)

AN EDITORIAL WARNS THAT THE ITALIAN MOVE TO CURB NONESSENTIAL

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IMPORTS SHOWS THE ENERGY CRISIS IS FAR FROM OVER. CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR STOPGAP MEASURES AND LONG-TERM ARRANGEMENTS ARE NEEDED NOW. (A-40)

C.L. SULZBERGER FORESEES BLOODSHED WHATEVER THE OUTCOME OF AN INEVITABLY CHANGED PORTUGUESE POLICY TOWARD ITS AFRICAN COLONIES. HE BELIEVES THE WHITES WILL TRY TO CREATE GOVERNMENTS LIKE SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA BUT ARE UNLIKELY TO SUCCEED IN THE LONG RUN. (A-41)

THE BALTIMORE SUN

VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING, THE FAVORITE FOR THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY, JOINED THE RANKS OF DOUBTERS OVER PRESIDENT NIXON'S CHANCES OF SURVIVAL. (A-2)

THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF LAOS' COALITION GOVERNMENT CHARGED THE U.S. WITH CONTINUING SPY FLIGHTS OVER LAOTIAN TERRITORY IN VIOLATION OF THE 1973 PEACE ACCORDS. (A-4)

A REVOLUTION AGAINST THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT OF JUAN PERON IS A BIT MORE LIKELY AS A RESULT OF RECENT GOVERNMENT ACTIONS. (A-5)

A SUN EDITORIAL SUGGESTS MR. SIMON NOTE THAT WITH INFLATION HURTING ALL CITIZENS AND THREATENING THE ECONOMIC STRUCTURE, THIS MAY WELL BE THE TIME FOR DEEP DEFENSE CUTS TO BRING THE BUDGET CLOSER TO BALANCE. (A-16)

JOSEPH ALSOP WRITES THAT THE WATERGATE-INDUCED QUASI-PARALYSIS OF THE GOVERNMENT IS DANGEROUS, AND THAT THE WORST DANGER OF ALL IS IN THE FIELD OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THIS IS BEING HALF-CONCEALED FOR THE MOMENT BY THE BRILLIANCE AND RICH PROMISE OF YOUR MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY. IF THE PRESIDENT IS ACTUALLY IMPEACHED, NO KISSINGERIAN BRILLIANCE CAN MAKE THE FOREIGN DANGER GO AWAY FOREVER. (A-17)

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